

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 (currently amended): In combination:

a housing defining a housing interior;

a swash plate drive shaft disposed in said housing interior and rotatably mounted relative to said housing about an axis of rotation;

a swash plate mounted on said swash plate drive shaft angularly disposed relative to said axis of rotation and located in said housing interior, said swash plate having an outer swash plate portion surrounding said swash plate drive shaft and generally freely rotatably moveable about and relative to said swash plate drive shaft and relative to said housing, ~~said outer swash plate portion having a contact surface~~ said swash plate comprising a bearing assembly and said outer swash plate portion comprising an outer race of said bearing assembly, said outer race having a contact surface; and

a plurality of spaced reciprocating members mounted for reciprocatable axial movement relative to said housing and frictionally engaging the contact surface of said outer ~~swash plate portion~~ race but not preventing rotation of said outer race about and relative to said swash plate drive shaft and relative to said housing, whereby the locations of contact between said contact surface and said reciprocating members ~~changing~~ change when said outer ~~swash plate portion~~ race rotates about said swash

plate drive shaft and relative to said housing to reduce wear between said reciprocating members and said outer race.

2 (canceled)

3 (currently amended): The combination according to Claim 2 1 wherein said outer race has a convexly curved outer peripheral wall adjacent to said contact surface.

4 (previously presented): The combination according to Claim 3 wherein said spaced reciprocating members have cavities receiving said outer race defined by concavely curved cavity walls engaged by the convexly curved outer peripheral wall of said outer race, the concavely curved cavity walls and the convexly curved outer peripheral wall of said outer race conforming in shape.

5 (previously presented): The combination according to Claim 3 wherein the convexly curved outer peripheral wall of the outer race comprises a segment of an imaginary sphere.

6 (previously presented): The combination according to Claim 5 wherein said outer race has a central diametric axis and wherein the axis of rotation of said swash plate drive shaft is intersected by the central diametric axis of said outer race substantially at the center of said imaginary sphere.

7 (canceled)

8 (currently amended): The combination according to Claim 7 11 wherein said two substantially planar contact surfaces

are substantially parallel to one another.

9 (previously presented): The combination according to Claim 1 wherein said spaced reciprocating members are fluid compressor pistons.

10 (currently amended): The combination according to Claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein said ~~ball~~ bearing assembly has an inner race affixed to said swash plate drive shaft and ball bearings disposed between said inner race and said outer race.

11 (new): In combination:

a housing defining a housing interior;

a swash plate drive shaft disposed in said housing interior and rotatably mounted relative to said housing about an axis of rotation;

a swash plate mounted on said swash plate drive shaft angularly disposed relative to said axis of rotation and located in said housing interior, said swash plate having an outer swash plate portion surrounding said swash plate drive shaft and generally freely rotatably moveable about and relative to said swash plate drive shaft, said outer swash plate portion having a contact surface; and

a plurality of spaced reciprocating members mounted for reciprocatable axial movement relative to said housing and engaging the contact surface of said outer swash plate portion, the locations of contact between said contact surface and said

reciprocating members changing when said outer swash plate portion rotates about said swash plate drive shaft, said swash plate comprising a ball bearing assembly and said outer swash plate portion comprising an outer race of said ball bearing assembly having a convexly curved outer peripheral wall adjacent to said contact surface, said spaced reciprocating members having cavities receiving said outer race defined by concavely curved cavity walls engaged by the convexly curved outer peripheral wall of said outer race, the concavely curved cavity walls and the convexly curved outer peripheral wall of said outer race conforming in shape, and said outer race having two substantially planar contact surfaces spaced from one another and extending inwardly from said convexly curved outer peripheral wall, said spaced reciprocating members including ball bearings projecting into said cavities and engaging said two substantially planar contact surfaces.